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## Abortion provider, condo group still at odds over fees

By [David Bruce](#)

Abortion provider Steven Brigham, M.D., said Monday that he shouldn't have to pay \$60,000 to gain access to downtown Erie office suites his company purchased in 1999.

Brigham owns six office suites at the Professional Building, 1611 Peach St. The New Jersey physician was locked out of the suites in March 2000 after the building's condominium association discovered unapproved renovation work in two of the suites.

Erie County Judge Fred P. Anthony ruled in February that Brigham is allowed access to the four suites where work was not performed. The judge also ordered that Brigham and the condominium association agree on an amount of membership dues, late fees and attorney costs the doctor owes the association.

The two sides have so far failed to reach an agreement.

"They made an offer a couple weeks ago of about \$10,000 or \$12,000," said Gene Ware, president of the condominium association. "That was ridiculous. They owe more than \$60,000."

Brigham said the figure seems too high, though he declined to explain why.

"We have a dispute about the dues," Brigham said in a telephone interview. "I'm not going to comment on that any further. I'm in New Jersey, and everything is happening too fast."

Brigham was referring to the eviction of State College Medical Services, the Centre County abortion clinic he has operated since 1997. The clinic's telephone number has been published in the Erie Yellow Pages for the past three years.

The Centre Daily Times reported Saturday that the state Superior Court ruled Brigham's company, the Friendly Corp., could be evicted because it breached its lease with the clinic's landlord.

"We're trying to get back into the office," Brigham said Monday. "That's why Erie is really on the back burner right now. My focus is on State College."

Brigham said he doesn't know if he will try to open a medical office in the four Professional

Building suites to which he does have access. He has said he intends to use the suites as a medical office where abortions would be performed.

Ware said the suites are too small for an office, and one of them isn't even connected to the other three.

"I don't believe he will ever do anything with those suites," Ware said.

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